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Major General Gary Sayler, Adjutant General, Idaho National Guard

**Testimony before the National Commission on the Future of the Army
24 August 2015**

Distinguished members of the National Commission on the Future of the Army, I am Major General Gary Sayler, The Adjutant General of the Idaho National Guard. Thank you for including a visit to Ft. Irwin and the National Training Center as you carry out your extremely important duties in studying the current and future structure of the Army.

I am very appreciative that you have had the opportunity to observe firsthand the capabilities of the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team (CBCT) and all of the attached enabling units from across the nation, to include the 1-183rd Attack Reconnaissance Battalion (ARB), Idaho's AH-64D Longbow Apache Helicopter Battalion.

As the Adjutant General for the Idaho National Guard, I would like to make the following recommendations to the National Commission on the Future of the Army:

1. Sustain the Army National Guard as a combat ready operational force, organized, manned, trained, equipped and utilized as a fully integrated component of the Total Force Army.
2. Maintain AH-64 Apache force structure in the National Guard.
3. Continue resourcing Full-Time Support in the Army National Guard to ensure

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its foundational readiness as an operational combat reserve force. Augment Full-Time Support with ADOS and 10 USC §12304b as required for contingencies and/or planned operations.

The 116th CBCT's performance throughout the preparation, train-up, and execution of NTC Rotation 15-09 is the most recent demonstration of its capability as a combat ready Brigade Combat Team in support of the defense of our nation. Previous deployments to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004 and Operation New Dawn in 2010 serve as testimony to the accessibility and capability of the Soldiers, Non-commissioned Officers, and Officers of the 116th CBCT.

The 1-183rd ARB has also demonstrated its accessibility and capability as a combat ready Attack Helicopter organization through previous deployments to Bosnia in support of Operation Joint Forge in 2002, to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2006 and currently as the Aviation Task Force for the NTC Rotation 15-09.

These deployments and this National Training Center rotation are highlighted examples from the numerous field training exercises, warfighter exercises, overseas deployment training exercises, and a variety of other training events these units from the Idaho Army National Guard have participated in throughout recent history in order to achieve and maintain readiness and relevance as a reserve combat force of the Army. A

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tremendous amount of knowledge, skill, and experience resides in these formations, which can be maintained and accessed at a significant value to the nation.

I fully concur with the recommendations provided by Major General (Ret.) Hargett in his Testimony before the National Commission on the Future of the Army on 20 May 2015 on behalf of The National Guard Association of the United States. I also concur and endorse the testimony provided to the Commission by MG Lusk, Adjutant General of North Carolina, on National Guard Full Time Support.

I am confident that your observation of the 116th CBCT's NTC Rotation 15-09, and the entire task force comprised of nearly 5,000 National Guardsmen, Army Reservists, and Active Army Soldiers, has further validated the Army Total Force Policy and has clearly demonstrated the capability of the National Guard to continue to serve the United States as a combat ready operational reserve of the Army.

Thank you for the vital work you are doing on behalf of the security of our nation in determining the future of the Total Force Army.